



USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7)

Multi-Purpose Amphibious Assault Ship

Homeport: Norfolk, Virginia

www.iwo-jima.navy.mil

LHD-7 is the second ship to bear the name "IWO JIMA." The first, LPH-2, was designed from the keel up as an amphibious assault ship, was launched September 17, 1960 at Bremerton, Washington and commissioned August 26, 1961. The ship carried a squadron of 24 Marine helicopters, plus a Battalion Landing Team of 1,500 Marines. In September 1963, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) made her first deployment to the Western Pacific, one of six deployments the ship would make to the region. During each deployment the ship played an active role in Southeast Asian operations by conducting over 30 amphibious landings in Vietnam. IWO JIMA (LPH 2) conducted other missions including mine countermeasures, search and rescue, refueling of other ships, and evacuation of American civilians and those of friendly nations from hostile territory. In April 1970, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) made history while serving as the Primary Recovery Ship for Apollo 13, the crippled lunar landing mission depicted in the Academy Award winning film starring Tom Hanks. In June 1976, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) commenced her fourth deployment to the Mediterranean and participated in the evacuation of civilians from Beirut, Lebanon. In August 1990, two weeks after the initial deployment of troops to the Persian Gulf for Operation Desert Shield, IWO JIMA (LPH 2) became the first amphibious assault ship to deploy to that area, and served as part of the coalition which ultimately drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait. USS IWO JIMA (LPH 2) was decommissioned in 1993.

Fabrication work for the new USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) began at Ingalls shipyard on September 3, 1996, and the ship's keel was laid on December 12, 1997. She was launched on February 4th, 2000. USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) was christened by her sponsor, Mrs. Zandra Krulak, in Pascagoula, Mississippi on March 25th, 2000. The commissioning crew moved aboard in April of 2001, and made the ship's maiden voyage (accompanied by more than 2,000 World War II veterans—many of them survivors of the Battle of Iwo Jima) on June 23rd, 2001. She was commissioned a week later in Pensacola, Florida, on June 30th, 2001. Shortly thereafter, the ship and crew began an accelerated Inter Deployment Training Cycle, which tested virtually every system onboard in realistic combat conditions. Together with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Two Six MEU), USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) recently completed workups in preparation for her maiden deployment in 2003.

The primary mission of LHD-7 is to embark, deploy, and land elements of a Marine landing force through amphibious assault operations by either helicopter, landing craft, amphibious vehicle or any combination of these methods.

On August 31, 2005, IWO JIMA was sortied to the Gulf of Mexico to provide disaster relief and to conduct support operations in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. IWO JIMA sailed up the Mississippi River to New Orleans to directly support relief operations and act as the central command center for all federal, state, and local disaster recovery operations. IWO JIMA was proud to serve as flagship for the Command-In-Chief, George W. Bush, and is the second Navy ship to have been presented the flag of the President of the United States of American.

On June 6, 2006 IWO JIMA departed on her second deployment, this time with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). For the second time in her history, IWO JIMA was off the coast of Beirut, Lebanon helping to evacuate more than 15,000 civilians. IWO JIMA conducted Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the Persian Gulf, participated in Exercises Infinite Moonlight in D'Jibouti Africa, and Exercises Inspired Union in Jordan. The USS IWO JIMA also aided in the war on terror by providing support to the forces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 844 feet
 Beam (Maximum)- 106 feet
 Speed: 22+ knots
 Draft (Navigational)- 27.6 feet
 Displacement- 40,500 tons full load
 Complement- 73 Officer/1009 Enlisted
 Marines: 1897 Embarked Marine Corps
 Troops

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 boilers, 2 geared steam turbines
 2 shafts, 70,000 total shaft horsepower
 Electrical:
 Services:

SENSORS

SPS-49
 SPS-55
 MK 92 Fire Control System
 SQS-56
 SQR-19 Towed Array

WEAPONS

Sea Sparrow Missiles
 Rolling Airframe Missiles
 Phalanx CIWS
 .50 caliber gun
 25mm chain gun

AIRCRAFT

Mix of 30 Helicopters
 6-8 AV/8B Harrier II